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WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES SETS THE STAGE FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council of Trade in Services met for a Special Session in Geneva on 5 October to discuss guidelines for future negotiations on further liberalising trade in services. The meeting primarily dealt with setting the stage and determining modalities and scope for the negotiations as Members are still putting forward proposals containing elements to be included in the text of the guidelines. According to a WTO representative, "While a lot of substance was discussed, some issues still remain to be clarified at the next Council meeting in December." A U.S. proposal on a negotiation framework, presented at the last Council meeting in July, was discussed in more detail. The submission stressed the need for further liberalisation and called for expanding existing commitments, broadening sectoral coverage and improving the GATS classification system. It also called for "needs assessment" for developing countries, and "special treatment" for least-developed countries.

The U.S. proposal suggested two additional deadlines other than the stock-taking exercise planned for March 2001, namely an agreement on modalities for liberalisation by mid-2001 and a conclusion of the negotiations by December 2002.

No agreement on these dates was reached, however, as some representatives thought the dates to be too ambitious, while others preferred that services negotiations proceed in parallel with those on agriculture.

The Council also had an initial discussion on two new proposals submitted by Mauritius (S/CSS/W/7, "Negotiating Guidelines and Procedures") and Hong Kong/China (S/CSS/W/6, "Scope and Coverage of the Services Negotiations and their Guidelines"). The submission from Mauritius on behalf of the African Group reaffirmed its strong support for the GATS and included detailed recommendations for negotiations. However, it also highlighted the "vast differences in the supply capacities between developed and developing countries" and the "extensive concessions" that had already been made by developing countries without receiving sufficient benefits in return. Among other things, the proposal called on Members to mandate the UNCTAD and WTO secretariats to examine and define key terms, including credit in the negotiations, relating to autonomous liberalisation to date. The submission by Hong Kong / China also presented numerous and detailed elements for negotiation, among them full national treatment in Mode 3 (commercial presence), and continuing clarification and development of GATS rules.

Discussions on tourism services focused mainly on the draft agenda for the Seminar on Tourism to be held in spring 2001. Sustainable development and tourism issues were discussed in this context with some countries expressing difficulty with references to "sustainability" while others suggested an approach focusing more on "viability", conveying the importance of underlying economic considerations in ensuring sustainable development. The proposal to add an annex on tourism to the GATS -- submitted by the Dominican Republic in a previous meeting -- was also discussed with broad support for negotiation on tourism services but differing views on whether a more or less comprehensive approach should be pursued. Support for pro-competitive disciplines, as proposed in the submission, was expressed by the European Union which submitted a paper (S/CSS/W/5 "Reaction to the Communication from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras on the Need for an Annex on Tourism") supporting the "cluster" approach to negotiating the sector, but as a "checklist" to assist in "identifying optimum proposals for effective and complementary liberalisation relating to the sector." The EC statement was considered by some Members as a weakening of previous support for the cluster approach.

The EU, Hong Kong/China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway and Singapore submitted a joint statement (S/CSS/W/8) calling for a "meaningful progress for multilateral liberalisation" in the maritime services sector. According to a WTO official, "the statement was generally welcomed" by Members including the U.S. which had previously been opposed to liberalising maritime services. The proposal will be reverted to for further discussion at the next meeting in December.

Two additional meetings of the Council took place on 5 and 6 October. At the first meeting, representatives discussed possible dates for the next review of MFN exemptions, but failed to reach an agreement. At the Regular Council meeting, Members resumed discussions on how to proceed with the work program for electronic commerce, in view of the need to report to the General Council in December. Due to time constraints, some of the items on the agenda of the regular session were only briefly discussed and then postponed to the next meeting.

The current round of negotiations has been underway since the beginning of this year in compliance with Article XIX of the GATS which mandates Member States to re-enter negotiations on further

liberalising trade in services within five years of the GATS' entry into force. The negotiations have been accompanied by widespread concern about the liberalisation of some sectors that have traditionally been supplied under government authority, such as health and education services. Although services "supplied in the exercise of governmental authority" are explicitly excluded from the GATS (Article I), many fear that liberalisation of these sectors will lead to increased privatisation and thereby endanger universal access to these services. The director of the WTO's Trade in Services Division on Friday called claims that services supplied by governments were under threat by the WTO "false or mistaken" and stated that these services "will not be negotiated, they will not be the subject of market access commitments, and they will not be subject to subsidy disciplines".

The Council will meet again early in December to continue talks on guidelines and procedures. No date for more detailed sectoral discussions has yet been determined.

Sources: "U.S. Framework for Negotiations Submitted to WTO Council For Services in Special Session, Released July 14, 2000," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 20 July 2000; "La santé et l'éducation pris dans l'engrenage du libre-échange?," LE MONDE, 3 October 2000; "WTO denies claims it is trying to abolish public services," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 6 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

EUROPEAN UNION SEEKS REFORMS TO BANANA AND SUGAR REGIMES

On 9 October, the European General Affairs Council gave its consent to a Commission proposal to amend the EU's controversial banana importing regime. The proposal applies the concept of 'first come, first served' to the issuance of banana importing licenses in conjunction with a newly defined system of tariff quotas. The quota element of the regime would be based on a three tiered tariff schedule: a 75 euro per tonne duty on the first 2.2 million tonnes of bananas; the same tariff rate on the next 353,000 tonnes; and a 300 euro per tonne duty on the next 850,000 tonnes of bananas. This schedule would, in turn, be regulated by a system allocating import permits based on the readiness of banana shipments for the EU market. That is, banana shipments of importable quality and within sailing distance from the EU will be permitted entry into the EU in accordance with the quota schedule. Bananas from ACP countries would continue to receive duty-free status under the proposal.

The United States, however, has rejected the proposal on the grounds that it continues to preference ACP producers over Latin American producers where Dole and Chiquita, both US based multinationals, locate the majority of their banana production. Six Latin American countries - Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama - have also publicly rejected the proposal threatening a WTO dispute panel should the proposal be enacted.

Absent, however, from the Latin American opposition to the EU proposal is Ecuador, a long time adversary to the EU banana regime and supporter of Washington's banana policy.

The EU proposal also includes a commitment to move towards a tariff-only regime by 2006. However, the EU has also said that it may resort to a tariff-only scheme sooner in the event that the tariff rate quota scheme proves infeasible.

The US position on the proposed new banana regime comes amidst mounting tensions between the two trading superpowers. Last week, these tensions were somewhat diffused when the two parties agreed to a protocol extending US Congress' FSC deadline to 1 November (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol.4 No. 37, 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.03-10-00.htm>). However, with the EU holding a sizeable bargaining chip in the FSC case, some trade analysts assume that the US will now proceed cautiously so as not to undo the truce. It is widely accepted that the EU-US protocol in the FSC case was reached through the mutual relaxation of sanctions by both countries. A rash move on the part of the US could upset this delicate balance, something the US may hope to avoid less than one month from a presidential election.

European Commission Proposes Reforms to Sugar Regime

One week after the last formal WTO agricultural negotiations meeting, the EU announced on 4 October proposed reforms to its 32 year old sugar regime. Although not the comprehensive reform package many sugar exporters demand of the EU, the proposal seeks to reduce the annual sugar production quota to 115,000 tonnes per year while scaling back storage reimbursements to producers. The modified regime also includes a commitment to deeper reforms by 2003, changes that would infuse more competition into EU sugar production while bringing the regime closer to WTO compatibility. With export subsidies to agriculture, characteristic of the industrialised world, under intense scrutiny from agricultural exporters around the world, principally from the CAIRNS Group, the EU is under increasing pressure to eliminate its export subsidy regime.

The proposal coincides with a warning from the George W. Bush Republican presidential campaign that if elected his administration would take strong action against the EU agricultural export subsidy regime. The CAIRNS Group, another strong foe of the EU agricultural regime, is scheduled to meet in Banff, Alberta, Canada next week to discuss the lack of progress towards liberalised agriculture since the Uruguay Round took effect in the context of ongoing agricultural negotiations at the WTO.

The political feasibility of reforming the EU Community Agricultural Policy is limited, however, as EU agricultural producers and farmers unions contend that subsidised agriculture performs an essential cultural function contributing to a distinct mode of living. The principle of 'multifunctionality' is often used to legitimise the subsidy regime.

"US Rejects New Commission Banana Proposal in Advance of Council," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 6 October 2000; "EU Commission Offers Plan to End Banana-Trade Fight," *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, 5 October 2000; "US Rejects EU Plan to End Banana Trade Dispute," *REUTERS*, 4 October 2000; "Brussels Backs New Banana Plan," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 5 October 2000; "Latin American Producers Oppose EU Bananas Plan," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 6 October 2000; "Ecuador Turns on US in Banana Dispute," 6 October 2000. "Bush Warns Europe on Trade Practices," *AFP*, 5 October 2000; "CAIRNS Group Farm Leaders Meet in Banff," *APEC MONITORING GROUP*, 3 October 2000; "EC Pledges to Reform Sugar Regime," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 5 October 2000; "EU Buys Time to Reform Sugar Quota Scheme," *REUTERS*, 4 October 2000; "EU Commission Proposes Reform in Sugar Market," *AFP*, 4 October 2000; "Sour Taste," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 4 October 2000;

ASEAN TRADE MINISTERS LEAVE OBSERVERS DOUBTFUL OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE

The meeting of ASEAN trade ministers held last week in northern Thailand ended without consensus regarding the promises free trade.

Malaysia took a leading role in the discussion announcing the withdrawal of its automotive-parts industry from a tariff-reduction scheme. This announcement forced a temporary deadlock between Thailand and Malaysia and forced a conference protocol allowing members to delay liberalisation of certain sectors of their economy, with due compensation to affected members. The protocol will be signed at an informal summit of ASEAN leaders in Singapore on 24-25 November 2000.

It was again Malaysia, backed by Indonesia and the Philippines, which convinced the ASEAN economic ministers to exclude tariff cuts in the so-called AFTA-CER agreement, which if ratified would link the ASEAN zone to Oceania's leading economies. Observers doubt that the ambitious plan to form a \$1000bn free-trade zone will find its way to the negotiating table, and have expressed concerns that this decision might cause even more economic damage in the ASEAN region than did the 1997 financial crisis.

At the meeting, the ministers joined in the EU's call for a new WTO round and agreed to work together with the Europeans in formulating a negotiations agenda, according to Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi.

Supachai, who will follow Mike Moore as WTO director-general in September 2002, in an interview said he intended to propose the creation of a regional mechanism through which China and the ASEAN could negotiate mutual tariff concessions designed to assist less developed economies, allowing products from these countries to compete with those of China. Supachai was responding to widespread fears regarding the adverse adjustment Asia's weaker economies would likely suffer in the aftermath of China's admission to the WTO.

Led by Takeo Hiranuma, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry, the conference issued a joint statement in which the ministers of ASEAN, Japan, South Korea and China demand that "improvement and development of rules and disciplines such as (the) Antidumping Agreement" be placed on the agenda for the next round of WTO negotiations. The U.S., however, firmly opposes this inclusion arguing that it would lead to even greater implementation difficulties and suggests that current implementation issues be addressed through increasing technical cooperation and assistance.

"ASEAN-China Tariff System Urged," IHT, 9 October 2000; "ASEAN Puts Free Trade on the Backburner," FINANCIAL REVIEW, 9 October 2000; "ASEAN Snagged Again, This Time on Malaysia," THE NATION, 9 October 2000; "ASEAN Fails To Agree on Broader Link Of Free Trade," IHT, 7+8 October 2000; "Asian Econ Mins Agree To Push For Early WTO Trade Round," DOW JONES, 7 October 2000; "Hiranuma Calls For WTO Amendment To Avoid 'Antidumping Wars'," KYODO, 7 October 2000; "Trade Barriers Must Fall, Says Report," FINANCIAL REVIEW, 6 October 2000; "ASEAN Ministers Back Free-trade Protocol," THE NATION, 6 October 2000; "Thailand and Malaysia Resolve Auto Deadlock," BUSINESS TIMES, 6 October 2000; "ASEAN, EU Agree WTO Should Reflect Poorer Countries' Concerns," BLOOMBERG, 6

October 2000; "ASEAN Backs Thais in Car Tariff Dispute," FT, 6 October 2000; "Accord on Dispute Formula," BANGKOK POST, 6 October 2000.

FDI TO TOP \$1000BN - BUT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' SHARE REMAINS MARGINAL

On 4 October, UNCTAD published its annual World Investment Report for 2000 predicting that global flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) are set to top \$1000bn this year. Compared to \$865bn in 1999, FDI flows have increased significantly with international mergers and acquisition (M&A) still the driving force.

Greenfield investment comprises the bulk of flows into developing nations, but the proportion of mergers and acquisitions is also rising.

Rubens Ricupero, secretary-general of UNCTAD, is cited as being concerned about the policies implemented by the developing countries. M&A could in fact be a hindrance to competition. Another UNCTAD-official is cited estimating that in normal situations for developing countries, M&As are less beneficial because they are less suitable for stimulating technology transfer and can have negative effects on employment.

Asia: China Might Experience FDI Boom

China's accession to the WTO could trigger an investment boom once Beijing has carried out the sweeping market-opening reforms that membership will entail, UNCTAD said on 4 October. In its World

Investment Report 2000, UNCTAD said the pace of FDI into China could more than double to \$100bn a year from the present \$40 bn if the government were to permit takeovers by overseas firms. Further market-opening measures in the heavily restricted services sector could replace manufacturing as the driving force behind FDI growth.

For Asia overall, UNCTAD said FDI prospects remained bright given the region's rapid recovery from its 1997 financial crisis and its widespread liberalisation and restructuring efforts. In 2000 FDI flows rose to \$96.15bn from \$87.16bn in 1998.

Africa's Share Of FDI Is Only 1.2 Percent

FDI flows to Africa last year rose to \$10bn from \$8bn, representing only 1.2 percent of global FDI flows and only 5 percent of total FDI into all developing countries. The report stresses that, "The real challenge for the continent lies ahead: integration into the global economy, including integration into the regional or global production networks of TNCs. Only then will the continent become a more prominent player in the world market and benefit more from FDI." About 70 percent of total 1999 FDI into Africa was concentrated in just five countries - Angola, Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa and Morocco.

FDI In Latin America At Record Levels

Long-term growth prospects and major privatisations are the main factors UNCTAD gave for the rapid rise in FDI flows to Latin America and the Caribbean. This region attracted an estimated \$90bn of FDI in 1999, compared to \$73bn the previous year. More than 80 percent of the inflows were concentrated in the four largest recipients: Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Chile. Perceived instability led to sharp declines in FDI flows to Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

To obtain the World Investment Report 2000 (Sales No.E.00.II.D.20) contact the UN sales section, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, fax +41 22 917 0027, e-mail unpubli@unog.ch, website www.un.org/publications, \$49 (\$19 in developing countries).

"Selon la CNUCED, les entreprises vont investir 1000 milliards cette année," LE TEMPS, 4 October 2000; "UN Details Money Flows," THE NATION, 4 October 2000; "Le boom des fusions inquiète la CNUCED," TRIBUNE DE GENEVE, 4 October 2000; "La France troisième investisseur mondial," LE FIGARO, 4 October 2000; "Global Flows," FINANCIAL TIMES, 4 October 2000; "Foreign Inflows Set to Top \$1000bn," FINANCIAL TIMES, 4 October 2000; "Les investissements directs étrangers explosent," LA TRIBUNE, 4 October 2000; "UN Agency Sees New China Foreign Investment Boom," REUTERS, 4 October 2000; "China WTO Entry to Lift Foreign Investment to \$60 Bln, UN Says," WTO PRESS REVIEW, 3 October 2000; "Global Foreign Direct Investment to Exceed \$1 Trillion, UNCTAD predicts," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 3 October 2000; "Prospects Brighten for Foreign Investment in Asia," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 3 October 2000; "FDI to Africa Rises in 1999, But Continent Must Become Bigger Market Player, Says UNCTAD Report," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 3 October 2000; "FDI in Latin America Hits Record Levels, Fuelled by Long-Term Growth Prospects, Privatisations," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 3 October 2000.

AGRICULTURE ROUND-UP

US Wants To Revise Agricultural Subsidy Exemptions

Fearing that agricultural programs in a 1996 US farm bill are not mentioned in the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, the US is requesting a WTO working party to define more clearly those subsidies to be deemed unactionable. It wants to re-categorise basic domestic support as either trade-distorting or not trade-distorting in order to render exempt direct payments under the Agricultural Market Transition Payments programme; "US Seeks Redefinition of Exempt Agricultural Domestic Support", INSIDE US TRADE, 6 October 2000.

La Via Campesina In Bangalore

From 3 September-1 October, the La Via Campesina, a worldwide movement of rural agrarians, held its third international conference. La Via Campesina conference was given to discussing the obstacles to rural sustainable agriculture worldwide. Among the topics discussed at the meeting were: (1) Lack of access to land; (2) The repression of farm leaders and farm movements; (3) Prices below the cost of production for agricultural products; (4) The imposition of an industrial model of

agriculture based only on profit rather than food quality and food safety; and (4) Displacement of local production. In attendance were thousands of the movement's supporters among them rural women's groups and community organisations decrying the 'globalisation' of world food production and the liberalisation of trade in agriculture products. "The Third International Conference of Via Campesina Opened in Bangalore (INDIA)," VIA CAMPESINA PRESS RELEASE, 3 October 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

WTO GIVES CANADA UNTIL FEBRUARY 2001 to AMEND CAN-US AUTO PACT - A WTO report released on 4 October gives Canada until 19 February 2001 to change the Canada-US Auto Pact which it said gives preferential treatment to automobiles imported from the US. Japan and the EC filed a joint complaint at the WTO, with Japan arguing that Canada should implement the changes by September of this year. Canada had asked the WTO to push the deadline back to May 2001. "WTO Orders Canada to Amend Auto Pact Rules by February 2001," KYODO NEWS, 4 October 2000; "Canada to Obey WTO Deadline on Auto Pact," REUTERS, 4 October 2000.

LITHUANIA SET TO JOIN WTO - Lithuania is set to join the WTO next year, becoming the fifth former Soviet republic to join the global trade body after Estonia, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia. To get into the WTO, Lithuania agreed to eliminate export subsidies upon accession and to open its markets to foreign investors in a range of industries. The U.S. and the Cairns Group insisted that Lithuania curb its export subsidies and domestic supports for farmers. In the end, Lithuania agreed to eliminate all export subsidies upon accession and to cut domestic supports by 20 percent by 2005. Lithuania's parliament is expected to ratify the membership agreement by May 2001 and the country will formally join the WTO 30 days after that date. "Lithuania Set to Join the World Trade Organisation Next Year," BLOOMBERG, 2 October 2000; "Lithuania Concludes WTO Accession Talks After Agreeing to Curbs in Farm Subsidies," WTO REPORTER, 3 October 2000; "Lithuania Completes WTO Talks," Financial Times, 3 October 2000; "Lithuania Completes Negotiations to Join WTO," DOW JONES NEWSWIREs; 2 October 2000.

FSC: US FORMALLY REQUESTS EXTENSION OF DEADLINE - Following the protocol signed with the EU on 30 September, the U.S. formally requested of the WTO a one month extension to implement the FSC replacement tax legislation (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 36, 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.03-09-00.htm>). The EU, however, did not join the U.S. in its request so as not to create the impression that both parties were altering international dispute settlement rules at will, EU and U.S. officials said. A senior U.S. official added that the decision to extend the deadline had to be made by the DSB and not those party to a dispute. The request will be considered in a 12 October meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, giving the US until 1 November to change its FSC law. The bill is presently awaiting Congressional ratification. "US Requests One Month Extension of FSC Deadline at WTO," INSIDE US TRADE, 6 October 2000.

INDIA LAUNCHES COUNTER-ATTACK ON US STEEL DUTIES - On 5 October India invoked the WTO's dispute settlement proceedings after the U.S. had slapped anti-dumping and countervailing duties on steel products originating from Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and India. India argued that the U.S. failed to conclusively prove that the steel products had entered the US

market at prices lower than production costs and that they caused sufficient material injury to the US industry to warrant the countervail duties. Both conditions are required in order to activate anti-dumping and countervailing duties according to US trade law. India also argued that in its investigation the U.S. failed to account for India's standing as a developing country. The parties have 60 days to reach an agreement. Beyond this deadline, India can ask for a WTO dispute settlement panel to arbitrate its complaint. "India Invokes Dispute Settlement Proceedings Against U.S.," DECAN HERALD, 6 October 2000; "India Uses WTO Forum to Hit Back at U.S. Steel Duties," BUSINESS TIMES, 9 October 2000.

LIBREVILLE HOSTS AFRICAN TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING IN NOVEMBER -Libreville, capital of West African country Gabon, will host an African Trade Ministers' meeting, scheduled for 13-15 November 2000. The conference is intended to develop the African trade ministries' capacity to work with the rules and agreements of the WTO while contributing to their technical preparations for future trade negotiations. According to the program, the ministers will confirm their commitment towards the multilateral trade system and will try to find ways of strengthening African countries' participation in the trade system. Representatives from both the public and private sectors will be in attendance. Absent from the meeting will be non-governmental organisations. "African Trade Ministers to Meet on WTO in Libreville," WTO NEWS, 4 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

CANADA, US AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE. The Canadian government announced that it has reached an agreement in principle to settle a dispute with the US over softwood lumber exports. The dispute stemmed from a US Customs ruling over softwood lumber last June. Under the ruling, boards made by hand to look rough-sawn on one or more sides no longer qualified as value-added making them subject to quotas established under the Canada-US Softwood Lumber Agreement. Now with a new understanding between Canada and the US, the US has agreed to allow Canadian producers to export 72.5 million board feet of rougher-headed lumber duty-free. Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew said that the agreement "will provide relief to companies that have been adversely affected by the unilateral US Customs Service reclassification of rougher headed lumber." The US reclassification occurred because US producers had argued that Canadian producers were skirting the quota by doing a minimum amount of manufacturing in order to classify the lumber product as value-added. "Canada Agrees to US Offer to Settle Softwood Lumber Dispute," BLOOMBERG, 6 October 2000.

US MAKES 10 COUNTRIES FULLY ELIGIBLE FOR TRADE BENEFITS. On 5 October, the US determined that 10 countries of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) have implemented or demonstrated substantial progress towards implementing certain customs procedures required by the Act (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 37, 03 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.03-10-00.htm>). Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Panama are now fully eligible for the preferential trade provisions of the CBTPA. The US hopes to approve the remaining 48 countries within the coming weeks according to US officials. "US boosts trade with 10 Caribbean, Centam nations," REUTERS, 5 October 2000.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE GOES ON SALE AT STARBUCKS. The Seattle-based company Starbucks -- the largest premium coffee seller in the U.S. -- has agreed to begin selling certified coffee, coffee assured to have been grown without exploiting farmers in poor coffee producing countries. The decision followed extensive lobbying by Transfair USA, a non-profit organisation that provides independent certification for fair trade goods. The organisation aims to ensure that farmers receive appropriate wages that will allow them to work their way out of poverty. The deal represents the first major success of the fair trade movement to access the U.S. mass consumer market. Source: "US offered coffee with conscience," FINANCIAL TIMES, 4 October 2000.

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>.

Coming Up this Week

10 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING.** Meeting will address: Accession of Oman, proposals to amend rules and procedures for settlement of disputes pursuant to article 10 of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO, reports from the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the Council for Trade and Services. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5015. For information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5015.

10 October, Brussels, Belgium: **ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.** For information visit: <http://www.europa.eu.int/scadplus/cal/en/c01010.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

10-12 October, Warsaw, Poland: **THIRD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE ELECTRICITY AND GAS TRADE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.** Sponsored by EconTrade. For information contact: Walter Leal Filho; tel: (49-351) 871-8344; fax: 871-8448; email: mr@econtrade.com.

11 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY (Bahrain).** For information Contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

11-12 October, Geneva, Switzerland: **WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT.** Meeting will address: relationship between trade and investment for development and economic growth and analysis of existing international instruments and activities regarding trade and investment. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

11-12 October, Washington DC: **NORTH AMERICAN TRADE & ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM.** Hosted by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). For information contact: Scott Vaughan, email: svaughan@ccemtl.org; web: <http://www.cec.org/>

11-12 October, Washington DC, USA: CEC SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERSTANDING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Sponsored by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. For information contact: Andrew Horsman, NACEC; tel: (1-514) 350-4300; fax: 350-4314; email: ahorsman@ccemtl.org; Internet: <http://www.cec.org>.

11-13 October, Hanover, Germany: WORLD TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: DO WE NEED NEW REGULATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS? For information contact: Dr. Andreas Dally, Evangelische Akademie Loccum, Postfach 21 58, D-31545, Rehburg-Loccum, Germany; tel: (49-5766) 81- 108; fax: 81-128; email: Andreas.Dally@evlka.de; Internet: <http://www.loccum.de>.

12 October, Geneva Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

12 October, New Delhi, India: LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND LABOUR STANDARDS. For information contact: Srinivas Krishnaswamy, CUTS; D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India; tel: (91-141) 207-482-85; fax: 207-486 or 203-998; email: cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in; Internet: <http://www.cuts-india.org>.

12-13 October, Dublin, Ireland: EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - SMEs AND NEW ENTERPRISES. Hosted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. For information contact: Sarah Farrell, Secretary; tel: (353-1) 204-3172 or John Hurley, Information Liaison Officer; tel: (353-1) 204-3209; Internet: <http://susdev.eurofound.ie/conference.html>.

12-13 October, Dublin, Ireland: EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - SMEs AND NEW ENTERPRISES. For information contact: Sarah Farrell, Secretary; tel: (353-1) 204-3172; Internet: <http://susdev.eurofound.ie/conference.html>.

12-13 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

13 October, Bern, Switzerland: SWISSAID SYMPOSIUM ON PATENTED HUNGER. For information contact: SWISSAID, email: tagung@swissaid.ch; Internet: <http://www.swissaid.ch>.

16 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

16 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

16-17 October, Cambridge, MA, USA: RAISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN THE TROPICS: BIOPHYSICAL CHALLENGES FOR TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY. Hosted by the Harvard Centre for International Development (CID). For information contact: CID; email: cid_events@harvard.edu; Internet: <http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidbiotech/ag/>.

16-20 October, Isle of Skye, Scotland: SMALL ISLANDS IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM: SHARING SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS. Organised by Habitat Scotland. For information contact: Graeme Robertson, Secretary, ISLANDS VI Conference, Hazelmount, Heron Place, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9EU, Scotland; tel: (44-1478) 612-898; fax: 613-254; email: graeme@islandstudies.org; Internet: <http://www.islandstudies.org/>.

16-27 October, Miami, Florida, USA: INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COURSE: SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS CENTER (SOAC). Sponsored by Florida International University. For information contact: Summit of the Americas Centre; Florida International University, University Park, DM 353, Miami, FL 33199, USA; tel: (1-305) 348-2894; fax: 348-3593; email: summit@fiu.edu; Internet: <http://www.americasnet.net>.

17 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF SAUDI ARABIA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

17-18 October, Cyprus: ITC CONFERENCE ON GATS AND GENERAL SERVICES EXPORTING. Hosted by the International Trade Centre. For information visit: <http://www.intracen.org>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.doc. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

18-19 October, Geneva, Switzerland: GENERAL COUNCIL. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5186.

23 October, Geneva, Switzerland: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5186.

24 October, Geneva, Switzerland: TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

24-25 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

27 October, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

30 October, Geneva, Switzerland: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - BRAZIL. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

30-31 October, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - AD HOC GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

Other Forthcoming Events

18-20 October, Aalborg, Denmark: EURO ENVIRONMENT 2000, 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE. Organised by representatives from Danish and international businesses, authorities and organisations. The conference provides an interdisciplinary forum in which business can interact with governments and critical stakeholders in a constructive debate on its environmental performance. For information contact: Else Herfort, EURO ENVIRONMENT secretariat; tel: (45) 993-5555, email: elseherfort@akkc.dk, Internet: <http://www.akkc.dk/environment>.

19-20 October, Portland Oregon: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITES FOR ECO-LABELS AND ECO-BRANDS. Hosted by The Food Alliance. The conference is designed to promote an exchange of ideas among the many stakeholders in sustainable agriculture, ecosystem conservation, and the food industry. For information contact: Deborah Kane, Executive Director, The Food Alliance; tel: (1-503) 493-1066; email: conference@thefoodalliance.org; Internet: <http://www.thefoodalliance.org/confprog.html>.

20-21 October, Seoul, South Korea: THIRD ASEM SUMMIT. This is the third Asia-European Meeting. The EC President Romano Prodi, the fifteen EU Member States and the Heads of State and Government from ten Asian countries (Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam) will attend. For information and the text of the full working document, see: http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/bilateral/asem/asem_prio.htm

23-27 October, Cape Town, South Africa: POVERTY, SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES FOR THE 21st CENTURY. Organised by the International Council on Social Welfare in conjunction with the South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare and the National Welfare Social Service and Development Forum, South Africa. The conference programme will focus on issues of overarching importance and international significance in relation to the eradication of poverty and promotion of social development. For information, contact: Global Conferences, P.O. Box 44503, Claremont 7735, South Africa; tel: (27-21) 762-8600; fax: 762-8606; email: icsw@globalconf.co.za; Internet: <http://www.icsw.org>.

23-27 October, Bremerhaven, Germany: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL ZONES. Organised by Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft, Regional Office Bremen in co-operation with Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven. For information contact: Albert Caspari; email: CaspariA@cdg.de; Internet: <http://www.geocities.com/cdgcaspari/>.

23-27 October, Athens, Georgia, USA: ETHNOBIOLOGY, BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND BENEFITS SHARING: This is the International Society of Ethnobiology's Seventh Congress. The Congress will address ethnobiology's role in maintaining biocultural diversity and ensuring

equitable benefit-sharing and open dialogue with traditional and indigenous research collaborators. For information contact: Seventh International Congress of Ethnobiology, c/o LaBau Bryan, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, 250 Baldwin Hall, Athens, GA 30602-1619 USA; tel.: (1-706) 542-3922; fax: 542-3998; email: lbryan@arches.uga.edu; Internet:<http://guallart.dac.uga.edu/ISE/>.

24-30 October: ONLINE-FORUM: SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY: MANAGING CONSUMPTION IN A GROWTH ORIENTED ECONOMY. Reducing the scale of resource consumption while maintaining economic stability promises to be one of the foremost policy challenges we face in building a sustainable society. This forum presents the opportunity to define the issues in an important emerging policy debate. For information contact: Ewa Charkiewicz, Tools for Transition Netherlands; Atjehstraat 20, NL-2585 UK, The Hague; tel: (31-70) 3520-289; Internet: <http://www.cusforum.com/>.

25- 27 October, Crystal City, Virginia: THE INTERNATIONAL ANTICOUNTERFEITING COALITION ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency. For information, contact: Richard Wynne, IACC; tel: (1-202) 661-7099; email: rwynne@iacc.org.

25-27 October, Miami, Florida, USA: 8th MEETING OF FTAA NEGOTIATING GROUP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. For information visit: http://www.ftaa-alca.org/ngroups/ngprop_e.asp#Meetings.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the *BRIDGES* staff to hcameron@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact mgalvin@ictsd.ch).

A CITIZEN'S HANDBOOK TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE. Compiled by Cameron Griffith, 2000. The goal of the handbook is to make the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) more open, transparent, and responsive to the public. The handbook presents an overview of the function and jurisdiction of the USTR in the formulation of US trade policy and suggests ways in which NGOs and the general public may influence the USTR. A free copy is available on the Internet. To obtain a copy contact: Cameron Griffith, Director of Federal Relations; Consumer's Choice Council, 2000 P Street, N.W. (Suite 540), Washington, DC 20036, USA; tel: (1-202) 785-1950; fax: 452-9640; email: cameron@attglobal.net; Internet: www.consumerscouncil.org.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT ON BARRIERS TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, July 2000. The report details obstacles EU countries face when exporting to and investing in the US, points out many differences between US and EU legal and regulatory systems, and talks about non-tariff barriers and the need to defend European intellectual property rights. To obtain a free copy go to: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/intro/index.htm.

ASIA-PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT MONITOR vol. 2, no. 1, 2000. . Managing Editor, Dr. Mohd. Noor b. Hj. Harun. Several Authors contribute to the Journal of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre. To obtain a copy contact: Mr. K. V. Ramani, Editor, Asia-Pacific Development Monitor; Asia Pacific Development Centre, Pesiaran Duta, PO Box 12224, 50770 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; email: kramani@pc.jaring.my.

CAPITAL FLOWS AND GROWTH IN AFRICA. Produced by the United Nations, 2000. The pamphlet reviews and analyses recent trends in capital inflows to Africa and the policies needed to ensure that aid is effectively translated into investment and growth. To obtain a copy contact: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

ECONOMIC LIBERALISATION AND EMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH ASIA. By M. Dev, 2000. Examines the impact on employment growth, unemployment, real wages, wage inequalities between skilled and unskilled workers, women's employment and child labour. It also analyses whether labour rigidities have affected the employment growth in South Asian countries. To obtain a copy contact: Centre for Development Research, ZEF; Walter-Flex-Strabe 3, D-53113 Bonn, Germany; tel: (49-0-228) 73-1846; fax: 73-5097; email: m.reule@uni-bonn.de; Interne: <http://www.zef.de/>.

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2000: CROSS-BORDER MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT. Produced by UNCTAD, 2000. The report provides statistical analysis of the latest trends on foreign direct investment, the country-by-country numbers, the details of cross-border M&As and the rankings of the top transnational corporations based on their foreign assets. The research, case studies and data are followed by recommendations on critical policy actions. To obtain a copy contact: Erica Meltzer, UNCTAD Press Unit; tel: (41-22) 907-5788; fax: 907-0043; email: press@unctad.org.

Electronic Resources

"Engaging with Civil Society: Lessons from the OAS, FTAA, and Summits of the Americas." A paper by Yasmine Shmsie, 2000. The paper may be accessed through North-South Institute Paper. Internet address: <http://www.nsi-ins.ca/download/shamsie.pdf>.

Proyecto Integración, Comercio y Ambiente (INCA), a Costa Rican NGO, has posted online its submission presented to the Committee of Government Representatives on Participation of Civil Society of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) countries. The submission is focused on the reasons why the environment should be included into the FTAA negotiations. To view the submission, visit the INCA website at: <http://www.inca.or.cr/publicaciones>.

"Trio." The new online newsletter of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The website details the latest activities of the NACEC and follows the progress of Canada, Mexico and the United States in working towards protecting the environment. To view go to: <http://www.cec.org/trio>.

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